(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check the decline?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Air Force does not follow a state based recruitment system. Eligible candidates from any state can apply for selection.

(c) A statement is attached (*See* below).

(d) Does not arise as the number recruited is a function of the vacancies available.

Statement

Recruitment in IAF

Financial Year	Airmen	Officers	Total
1999-2000	1638	452	2090
2000-2001	1677	414	2091
2001-2002	3473	400	3873
2002 (upto 6-12-2002)	2486	168	2654

Harassment to retiring Employees

2116. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Local Audit offices of Defence establishments situated at Agra are delaying audit of Post retiring documents of retiring Defence civilian employees; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take against such offices harassing the retiring employees?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. The Department has not received any complaint regarding delay in audit of such post-retiring documents.

On review, it has also been ascertained that as on 30.11.2002 there are no such cases pending with the LAOs at Agra.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.